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Secretary of State Police

Operation



Precious Cargo

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GEORGE H. RYAN
Secretary of State



Operation Precious Cargo

One of my most serious duties as Secretary of State is traffic safety. Through the Secretary of State Department of Police, it is my privilege — and my responsibility — to implement Operation Precious Cargo to help ensure the safety of the youngest passengers on Illinois highways.

Through this program — the first federally funded program of its kind in Illinois — all uniformed investigators of the Secretary of State Police will carry a loaner child safety seat in their police cars. Instead of just ticketing violators of the state law requiring children under age four to be secured in a child restraint system, our investigators will loan violators a child safety seat and instruct them in the proper use of the seat.

Illinois Department of Transportation statistics during a two-year period show that of all traffic deaths in Illinois, nearly 6 percent were passengers under age four. That is simply unacceptable.

The best preventative measure we can take is the proper use of child restraint systems. We hope Operation Precious Cargo will be an effective step toward our goal of eliminating traffic deaths and injuries to our youngest passengers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "George H. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

Child Passenger Protection Act



Make sure the harness isn't fastened too loosely.

Be certain the harness is fastened over the child's shoulders.

Check that the seat is appropriate to the weight of the child.



Double check: is the car's safety belt routed through the seat correctly?

The seat must face in the proper direction.

There should be labels certifying the seat meets federal safety standards.

Under Age 4

When any person is transporting a resident child of this state under the age of 4 years, such person shall be responsible for providing for the protection of such child by properly securing him or her in a child restraint system.

The parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of 4 years shall provide a child restraint system to any person who transports his or her child.

Any person who transports the child of another shall not be in violation of this Section unless a child restraint system was provided by the parent or legal guardian but not used to transport the child.

Ages 4 and 5

Every person, when transporting a child 4 years of age or older but under the age of 6 shall be responsible for securing that child in either a child restraint system or seat belts.

Age 6 Or Over

For children age 6 years or over, the seat belt law under the Illinois Vehicle Code, Section 12-603.1 applies.



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Child Motor Vehicle Deaths in U.S.

	Male	Female	Total*
1980	1,864	1,183	3,048
1981	1,668	1,064	2,733
1982	1,530	1,042	2,573
1983	1,579	939	2,518
1984	1,484	937	2,422
1985	1,464	1,005	2,469
1986	1,560	972	2,537
1987	1,635	1,019	2,654
1988	1,609	1,086	2,698
1989	1,562	1,088	2,651
1990	1,366	965	2,331

*Includes sex unknowns

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

- In 1990, 2,331 children age 0-12 died in motor vehicle crashes nationwide.
- Motor vehicle injuries are the cause of about one-third of all child deaths from injury.
- Children comprised 19 percent of the U.S. population in 1990 and 5 percent of all motor vehicle deaths. Child deaths have comprised about the same percentage of vehicle deaths each year for 10 years.
- The youngest children have higher passenger vehicle occupant death rates than older children. The highest rate is for children younger than one year.
- Fifty-four percent of children age 0-12 killed by motor vehicles in 1990 were passenger vehicle occupants. All (1,262) were passengers — 43 percent in the front seat, 43 percent in the rear seat, and the rest in cargo areas, other areas, or unknown locations.



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For Secretary of State Police services in your area, please contact:

Command Center

Springfield
(217) 782-7126

Support Services

Springfield
(217) 786-6226

Police Inquiry Unit

Springfield
(217) 782-7126 (24 hours a day)

Uniformed Districts:

District #1, Maywood, (708) 343-8088
District #2, Rockford, (815) 987-7560
District #3, Springfield, (217) 786-6209
District #4, Mt. Vernon, (618) 244-4525

Auto Theft:

Westchester, (708) 344-2307
Loves Park, (815) 877-6775
Springfield, (217) 786-6193
East St. Louis, (618) 398-7813

Salvage Vehicle Inspection Stations:

Chicago, (708) 646-5320
Fairview Heights, (618) 397-2476
Morton, (309) 266-6521
Springfield, (217) 786-6005